to visit Islamabad in search of these prisoners languishing in Pakistani Jails;

(b) if so, whether Government has constituted a high-level committee to deal with the issue;

(c) if so, whether the said committee has made any procedure for relatives of said Prisoners of War; and

(d) the number of relatives of such Prisoners of war sent to Pakistan so far for their identification?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. In January 2007, during the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan, the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan and it has agreed to accept a visit of families of PoWs to Pakistan.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposed visit is yet to take place.

Japanese Offer in Nuclear Technology

4635. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan while urging India to Joint NPT and refusing to acknowledge India's nuclear possession has offered supply of nuclear power equipment and technology;

(b) if so, details of Japanese reaction to Indo-US Nuclear Agreement and the offer made by Japan; and

(c) Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Japan is a party to the NPT aned continues to support the binary NPT view distinguishing between nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States. India's views on the NPT are known to Japan. No offer for supply of nuclear power equipment and technology from Japan is under discussion.

During Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo in December 2006, India and Japan agreed that international civil nuclear energy cooperation should be enhanced through constructive approaches under appropriate IAEA safeguards. The discussions on international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India continue.

E-Linking of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad

4636. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to Pakistan "e-linking" of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad for quick clearance of documents of people travelling between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Granting of Visa

4637. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that it takes inordinately long to obtain visas to visit India from European countries;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Minister that some unscrupulous agents are even demanding money under the table especially in Paris to expedite grant of visas; and

(c) the steps the Ministry has taken to expedite process of grant of visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Indian Missions abroad including those in European Countries grant visas expeditiously in keeping with the relevant norms. Visas are granted on the same day or the next day of the receipt